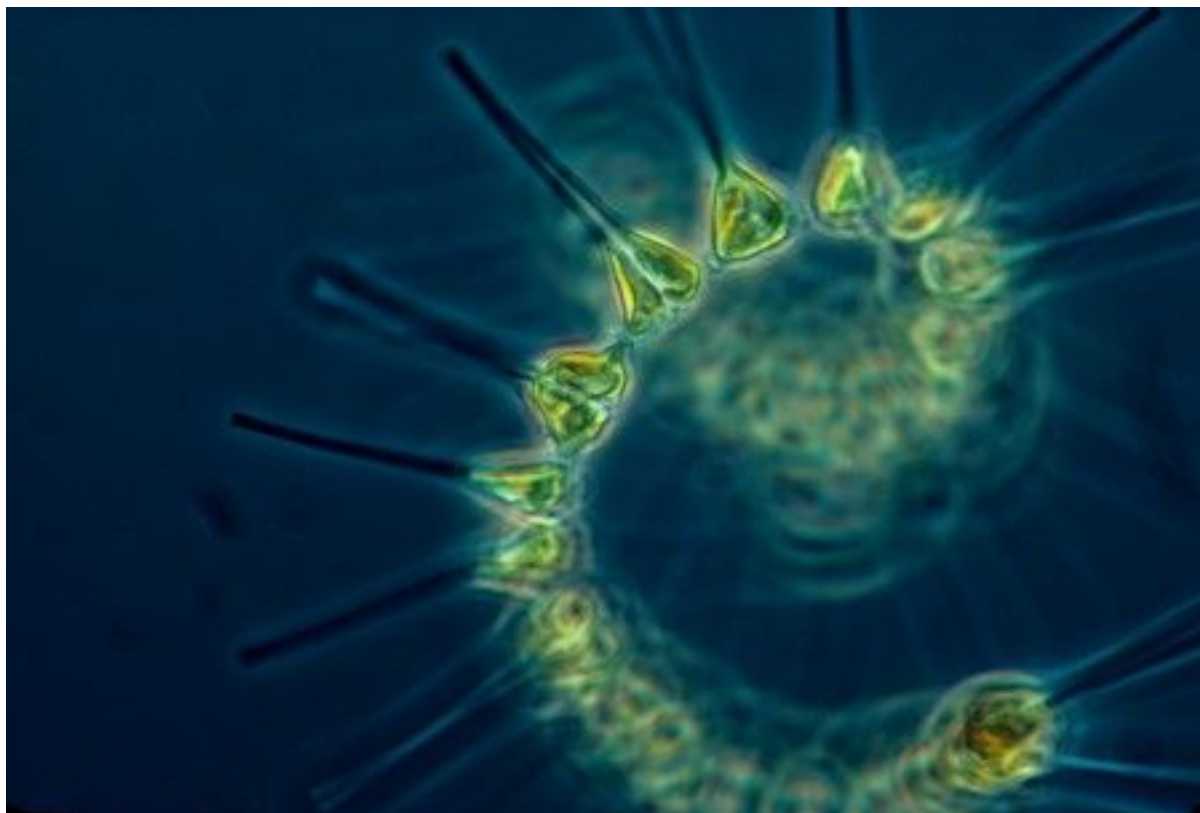


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## My NASA Data - Interactive Models

### Global Phytoplankton Distribution Story Map



At the bottom of the ocean's food chain, phytoplankton account for roughly half of the net photosynthesis on Earth. Their photosynthesis consumes carbon dioxide and plays a key role in transferring carbon from the atmosphere to the ocean. Unlike the plant ecosystems on land, the amount of phytoplankton in the ocean is always followed closely by the abundance of organisms that eat phytoplankton, creating a perpetual dance between predators and prey.

To learn more, visit:

- The MND [Phytoplankton Distribution Phenomena](#) page for background information
- The [Explain](#) tab found in the Story Map

Teachers who are interested in receiving the answer key, please complete the [Teacher Key Request and Verification Form](#). We verify that requestors are teachers prior to sending access to the answer keys as we've had many students try to pass as teachers to gain access.

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## Grade Band

- 3-5
- 6-8
- 9-12

## Supported NGSS Performance Expectations

- [4-ESS2-2: Analyze and interpret data from maps to describe patterns of Earth's features.](#)
- [5-ESS2-1: Develop a model using an example to describe ways the geosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and/or atmosphere interact.](#)
- [MS-ESS2-6: Develop and use a model to describe how unequal heating and rotation of the Earth cause patterns of atmospheric and oceanic circulation that determine regional climates.](#)
- [HS-ESS2-6: Develop a quantitative model to describe the cycling of carbon among the hydrosphere, atmosphere, geosphere, and biosphere.](#)
- [HS-LS2-5: Develop a model to illustrate the role of photosynthesis and cellular respiration in the cycling of carbon among the biosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and geosphere.](#)

## Related Resources

- [Data Literacy Cube Guide](#)
- [Instructional Strategies for the Earth Science Classroom](#)